

CLAIMS

1. A method of cleaning a substrate in order to remove adsorbed prion infectivity, which comprises washing the substrate with a concentrated salt solution of a concentration of at least 1.0M.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate is a chromatographic material.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate is an adsorbent used in the purification of proteins or other macro molecules.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate is a surgical instrument, electrode or other substrate brought into contact with the body during a surgical procedure.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate is meat processing equipment employed in abattoirs.
6. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the salt solution has a concentration of at least 1.5M.
7. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the salt solution has a concentration of at least 1.75M.

8. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the salt cation is sodium, potassium or ammonium.
9. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the salt is sodium chloride.
10. A method according to any of claims 1 to 8 wherein the salt is sodium citrate, sodium acetate, sodium gluconate, sodium sulphate; potassium chloride, lithium chloride or ammonium chloride.
11. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the method is employed to clean a substrate involved in the fractionation of human plasma.
12. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the concentrated salt wash is followed by washing with an alkali.
13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the alkali has a concentration of 0.05 to 0.5M.
14. A method according to claim 12 or 13 wherein the alkali brings the pH at the substrate to at least 12.
15. A method according to any of claims 12 to 14 wherein the substrate is contacted with the alkali for 0.5 to 2 hours.

16. A method according to any preceding claim comprising a further concentrated salt wash.

17. Salt solution of a concentration of at least 1.0M for use in cleaning a substrate in order to remove adsorbed prion infectivity.